



**ROYAL  
AERONAUTICAL  
SOCIETY**

AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
SYDNEY BRANCH INC

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# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2012

Date: **Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

Time: **18:00 for 18:30 hours**

Speaker: **Air Marshal Clifford Spink  
CB CBE FCMI FRAeS**

**Master of the Guild of Air Pilots  
and Air Navigators [GAPAN]**

Topic: **'Memories of Flying'**

Venue: **Mechanical Engineering Lecture Theatre  
Mechanical Engineering Building, J07**

**University of Sydney**

Refreshments will be available prior to the commencement of the meeting

## Speaker Profile

Cliff started his flying career on the Jet Provost at Cranwell followed by advanced flying training on the Gnat. A period of tactics/weapons training on the Hunter preceded his Operational Conversion Training on the Lightning at RAF Coltishall. He then served with 111(F) Sqn at RAF Wattisham flying the Mk3/5 Lightning (weekends were spent as CFI of the local Gliding Club). Following a weapons instructor course he was reposted to 'Treble One' before moving to 56(F) Sqn in Cyprus on the Mk 6 Lightning. It was during this period that the Turks invaded the island and 56 Sqn were heavily involved in the subsequent air operations. The squadron returned to Wattisham in 1975 and Cliff finally left the Lightning Force the following year, having amassed 1,300 hours on the 'most exhilarating rocket ship any young man could wish to fly'.

A ground tour followed and during this period (playing truant from his desk) he reacquainted himself with the Chipmunk to stay sane. In 1979 a refresher on JP5 followed by some Hunter FGA 9 weapons training preceded his introduction to the Phantom FGR2 at Coningsby. After a short course it was back to 111(F) Sqn now flying a mix of FGR2/FG1 Phantom at RAF Leuchars. Cliff was to be associated on and off with the F4 for the next 10 years and this included 2 ½ years as the Squadron Commander of 74(F) Sqn, 'The Tigers', flying the F4J (UK), and a year in the Falklands as Station Commander of Mount Pleasant Airfield. Aside from flying the F4M in the South Atlantic, he also flew the Hercules and the Sea King helicopter. Returning to the UK, he converted to the Tornado F3, before taking command of RAF Coningsby. A couple of weeks later he went to Saudi Arabia as the Tornado Detachment Commander at Dhahran for the duration of the Gulf War. Back at Coningsby in April 91, he had his first trip in a BBMF Hurricane and in the next two years he also flew the Spitfire II, V, XIX in addition to the Tornado. The end of 1992 was to see a drop in Cliff's front line fighter flying, although he stayed qualified on Tornado, Hawk and Nimrod until he finished as a Group Commander in 1998. Importantly however, Cliff continued to fly the Warbirds



following his introduction to them on the BBMF. The majority of this flying has been done at Duxford and he regards himself as one of the 'luckiest and most privileged pilots' to have flown a variety of famous and historic aircraft. These include: Spitfire II, V, IX, XI, XIV, XVI, XIX; Hurricane II, X; Bf109G; Buchon; Mustang; Sea Fury; Corsair; Thunderbolt; Kittyhawk; Wildcat; Polikarpov I-153; T-28 Trojan; Vampire, T33 Silver Star, F86A Sabre and Hunter.

## Synopsis

As can be seen from his CV, the current Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators [GAPAN] is deeply involved in the flying and display of a variety of "old aircraft". One of the few in the world to fly such a variety of iconic types [Spitfire, Bf109, Hurricane, F86A and Hunter, to name a few!], it will be interesting to hear his take on the challenges of their operation in a modern world and as an experienced fighter pilot, their handling virtues and vices.



## Parking

Best parking is in the Shepherd St Car park corner of Cleveland St and Shepherd St. Please observe parking

restrictions and allow time to drive to the University of Sydney, park and walk to the venue. (Refer map).

## Post Presentation

The Sydney Branch Committee will be light refreshments (Pizzas and Drinks) following the presentation to encourage attendees to mingle and interact with the speaker and subsequently the Committee will take the Master to dinner at the nearby **Buon Gusto Italian Restaurant, 368 Abercrombie Street, Chippendale.** (approx \$35 pp inc soft drink & wine.)

## RSVP:

Registration for the presentation, light refreshments and the following dinner are essential. Please register by clicking on the link: <http://www.raes.org.au/events/> or email by lunchtime Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov to: [sydneybranch@raes.org.au](mailto:sydneybranch@raes.org.au)

## Dr Ronald Yates AM

It is with sadness to report that Dr Ronald John Yates AM passed away on Saturday, 27 October 2012, at Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney. His funeral service was held, Thursday, 1 November 2012

Mr David Cox

Chairman, RAeS Aust Div Sydney Branch.

## 28th ICAS 2012 Congress held Brisbane – 23-28 September 2012

For only the second time in its history, the International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences [ICAS], has held its biennial Congress in the Southern Hemisphere at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre in Queensland.

CAS President – Dr Detlef Müller-Wiesner, summed-up by saying “the Congress clearly met its key objective of providing a unique global forum for scientists, engineers, managers and students from industry, government agencies and universities to learn, debate and share ideas and technical information about key issues for the aeronautical industry”. ICAS 2012 set several records, including exceeding attendance targets: the total of over 800 delegates was well above those of the two preceding Congresses held in Europe and North America, and there was a record number of postgraduate research students participating. The Congress commenced with the *ICAS Daniel & Florence Guggenheim Lecture* presented by Dr Bill Schofield of Australia on “Collaboration Challenges in the Global Aerospace Market for Smaller Countries – an Australian Perspective”, and this was followed by more than 350 technical papers presented by leading authorities from over 40 countries. During the week the *ICAS Lawrence Hargrave Award for Innovation in Aeronautics* was presented to Dr Takashi Ishikawa of Japan, who gave an intense overview of the “Full Composite Aero-Structures Development in Japan”. The final climax of the technical program was the presentation of a lecture on “HIFiRE – the Hypersonic International Flight Research & Experimentation Program”, which attracted the *ICAS von Kármán Award for International Cooperation in Aeronautics* and was presented to Dr Allan Paull and Prof. Michael Smart of Australia, and Dr Kevin Bowcutt and Mr Douglas Dolvin of the USA. During the

closing ceremony, it was announced that the 29th Congress [ICAS 2014] will be held in St Petersburg, Russia, 7-12 September 2014, and that the ICAS presidency for the next two years is to pass to Prof. Murray Scott of Australia. In accepting the position, Prof. Scott reflected on the honour of being the first president of such a prestigious world body residing outside Europe or North America, and stated that “Over the next few years, ICAS will conduct meetings in the USA, South Africa, Russia and Korea, and this reinforces the truly global nature of the ICAS community and the diversity of the international aerospace industry.”

### Diary 2012

- 3 Nov:** Catalina Festival, Lake Macquarie, Dorrington Road, Rathmines Park - [www.catalinafestival.com.au](http://www.catalinafestival.com.au)
- 4 Nov:** NSW Sport Aircraft Club Open Day and Flying Display. Refer: [www.wedderburnairstrip.com.au](http://www.wedderburnairstrip.com.au)
- 7 Nov:** 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Arthur Butler Memorial Lecture at the Powerhouse Museum to be given by Mr Bob De La Hunty OAM, President HARS, commencing 19:45 hours. Refer attached letter for further details.
- 15 Nov:** NSW Bch Aviation Law Society of Aust & NZ. Presentation by Dr Alan Hobbs Ph.D., NASA Ames Research Center entitled ‘Unmanned Aerial Vehicles’ refer: [eyilmaz@rgslaw.com.au](mailto:eyilmaz@rgslaw.com.au) for details.
- 5 Dec:** AGM, Sydney Branch – see below for details.

### The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Aeronautical Society Australian Division - Sydney Branch Inc

will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012, commencing at 18:00 hours, in the Mechanical Engineering Lecture Theatre, Mechanical Engineering Building J07, The University of Sydney. **2012 AGM AGENDA**

- PRESENT:** Members to sign attendance book.
- APOLOGIES:**
- PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of the 2011 AGM, discussion and motion to accept.
- BUSINESS ARISING:** Discussion and motion to accept.
- CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** Annual report, discussion and motion to accept.
- TREASURER’S REPORT:** Presentation of 2012 financial statement. (Audited report will be sent with the February Newsletter). Discussion and motion to accept.
- ANNUAL ELECTIONS:** The Hon Sec to report on Nominations received for the classes of Committee by the due date 14<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 and, should there be more Nominations received than positions available for any of the classes, the result of elections.
- APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY AUDITOR:** Mr Stephen Howard, Harrison and Howard.
- GENERAL BUSINESS:** Any business raised and accepted by the Chairman.
- CLOSE OF MEETING:** Thank you for attending, and best wishes for the Festive Season. Close of AGM.
- PRESENTATION:** **To be advised** (To commence 18:30 hours)

*Refreshments will follow the conclusion of Jason Held’s presentation entitled ‘Sabre Astronautics’.*

### 2013 Committee Nomination Form

Send to: The Honorary Assistant Secretary, RAeS Aust Division – Sydney Branch, 22A Tobruk St, NORTH RYDE, NSW 2113/email: [sydneybranch@raes.org.au](mailto:sydneybranch@raes.org.au) / Fax: 9905 2579 (please ensure that nomination forms have been correctly signed before forwarding)  
The Sydney Branch AGM is to be held 18:00 hours, Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at the Mechanical Engineering Lecture Theatre, Mechanical Engineering Building J07, The University of Sydney.

In accordance with the Branch Rules (2011) of the Sydney Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society, nominations for the Committee are called and shall be made in writing and signed by one member of the Branch and countersigned by the Nominee. The committee consists of one Chairman, 11 Ordinary Committee Members, and 2 Student Representatives (in total 14 people).

Please forward completed Nomination Forms to the Branch Honorary Assistant Secretary at the address above by Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 which is twenty one (21) days prior to the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

I ..... (Nominator’s Full Name)  
of ..... (Nominator’s Address)  
nominate ..... (Nominee’s Full name)  
of ..... (Nominee’s Address)

as an: Ordinary Committee Member/Student Representative/Chairman (*delete 2 of these classes as appropriate*) for the Sydney Branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society for the Year 2013.

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** ..... **Member Number:** ..... (Nominator)

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** ..... **Member Number:** ..... (Nominee)

**Tel contact:** ..... (Nominee) **email:** ..... (Nominee)

**NOTE: PLEASE USE ONE FORM FOR EACH POSITION BEING NOMINATED**

**Office Use Only:** Nomination received by the Sydney Branch Hon Asst Sec: ..... (Initials) ..... (Date)